

GAINESVILLE

The Sun

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H. H. McCREARY, Editor and Publ'r.

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Local advertisements, 15 cents a line for the first and 10 cents for each additional insertion.

Standard advertisements for three, six and 12 months at special rates. Quotations furnished upon application.

Obituary and Death notices inserted free. Obituaries, 5 cents a line.

OUR CIRCULATION LAST

The Sun and the Twice-a-Week Sun, 13,000 copies a year.....\$1 00
The Sun and the Atlantic (Ga.) Constitution one year.. 1 75
The Sun and the Atlantic (Ga.) Weekly Journal one year. 1 50
The Sun and the Sun-Weekly one year..... 1 50

We will not accept stamps of a denomination less than 5 cents.

Mr. Angel has just returned to the penitentiary. He evidently has not been living up to his parole.

Mr. C. H. Knight of Tampa has been sent to the penitentiary. He was sent there for the benefit of his health. He says his health is greatly improved.

The St. Louis baggage master has dropped a trunk containing dynamite. He was carrying it for a man who was going to Tampa. He says he does not know who the man is.

Several printers at one dollar per hour are the most profitable crop producers in Florida. But this is not the case, as we are informed that they are working in Tampa at two dollars per hour.

The following is the tax levy for the year 1907: General purposes, 14 mills; public works, 4 mills; educational purposes, 3 mills; municipal bonds, 1 mill; and a special levy on property for a five plug, 3 mills.

The proposition of a Georgia legislature to tax newspaper publishers one per cent of their gross receipts was rejected by the committee by only one vote. The chairman breaking the tie vote. There are not many publishers in Georgia who would object to such a tax upon the "hot" receipts.

David C. Dunn, secretary of the Florida Railroad Commission, has been named as the successor to J. B. Portland. The latter gentleman has been appointed newspaper man and will devote his entire time to the business. The Sun regrets the retirement of Mr. Dunn, but welcomes Mr. Portland as the new editor.

The County Commissioners of Hillsborough finally won out in their effort to compel the lease of county prisoners to put Harry Bonford at work in the convict camp. Instead of allowing him to retain his position with Knight & Wall in Tampa. The commissioners are to be commended for the determined stand they took in the case.

Senator Mallory again reminds his friends that he is a candidate for reelection. His health has greatly improved during the past few months and he will meet his opponents on the field of battle. If the people do not return Mallory to the United States Senate they will be guilty of base ingratitude, for they never had a more faithful or more able representative in the upper branch of Congress.

The Prohibition League of Escambia county has petitioned the Board of County Commissioners to call a wet and dry election to be held the latter part of September. If Escambia county should go dry those engaged in the whiskey business in the few other counties of the State where the traffic is now licensed might just as well close out and move elsewhere, or engage in some other business. The result will be awaited with great interest throughout the State.

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS.

A contemporary says there are over 23,000 newspapers in the United States and yet there is no other branch of business in regard to which such dense ignorance prevails as to cost and profit of production.

This is a matter which is fast becoming of public concern, for the character of the American press and its future influence as the protector of American liberty depends upon it.

Some extremely important facts bearing upon the cost of publishing newspapers in the city of New York have recently been given in a brief submitted by Mr. John Norris, on behalf of the publishers. Mr. Norris is an acknowledged expert upon the subject of which he writes, having long been connected with the business departments of leading New York and Philadelphia newspapers. He has made an exhaustive investigation and his brief is a document of extraordinary significance.

Mr. Norris does not hesitate to say that there is now impending over the daily newspaper press of New York the most serious menace that ever confronted it. This is strong language, and yet his statement of facts seems to warrant it. An additional burden of \$3,000,000 a year in the expense account of sixteen daily newspapers constitutes the menace of which Mr. Norris speaks, but there is a larger menace than that back of these figures, of which account will be given later on. This \$3,000,000 a year of added expense includes \$2,100,000 for white paper, \$600,000 additional for compositors, \$200,000 additional for stereotypers, and \$100,000 additional for other labor. Mr. Norris declares that no more than four papers out of the sixteen which he represents could make both ends meet upon such terms. He adds that these sixteen papers pay \$1,500,000 a year tribute to organized labor—that is to say, that is the additional cost of a closed shop over an open one. He is not antagonizing the closed shop, the principle of which he accepts, but he asks how long the newspapers will be able to meet these additional charges upon them. "We are," he says, "approaching that limit where our necessities may force us to stop."

Here are some additional facts picked at random from Mr. Norris' brief: Ninety per cent. of all newspaper circulation in New York City is on the one-cent basis. The sale of advertising space is also on a declining rate. Since 1895 the earning power per column of most of the New York papers has been reduced. A powerful combination of dry goods merchants has operated to reduce the line charge. This dry goods combination stayed out of The World for seven months, boycotted The Sun at the time of its labor trouble, and has been out of The Times for about four years. When The New York World reduced the price of its paper from 2 cents to 1 cent, it gained 90,000 circulation in three weeks, but gave up \$1,000 a day, \$612,000 a year in revenue, and added at least \$600 a day to its expenses. That meant a loss of \$450,000 a year in gross revenue. Mr. Norris went on to say that The New York Times is prospering, but that the fact was painfully evident that its profit for a long period would not pay for the additional cost on its new building, which was put upon it by the many unions in fights to which The Times was not a party. These fights added \$538,000 to the cost of construction. The Herald is a 3-cent paper and can afford many extravagances and submit to many exactions, but there are extremes beyond which 1-cent papers cannot go. The demands, he declared, are verging upon the point of putting up some newspaper shutters. The New York World pays out \$2,500,000 a year for labor. This is at the rate of \$50,000 a week, and the remarkable fact is stated that there are 1,000 men now on its pay roll who receive over \$1,500 a year. The news dealers make a profit of \$1,500,000 every year from its sale. The smallest share of returns goes to the newspaper capital. Mr. Norris goes on to add that the daily newspaper business is the most precarious venture that can be devised. The most prosperous in the city spends 80 per cent. of its revenue in its operating expenses, while most of the papers show deficits. The newspaper percentage of profit is less than that of any other manufacturing enterprise. For every \$1,000 of increased business gained by at least one paper more than \$1,000 has been paid out to get it. In a period of ten years The New York World's expenses

increased 40 per cent. and its earning power decreased fully as much.

Such facts as these are staggering. Unless conditions change they point to very important changes in the character of the newspaper press. The liberty of the press is one of the safeguards of our civilization. It is essential under such a form of government as we possess that the independence of the press should be preserved. Independence is best maintained by the operation of newspapers for profit. Any other method of operation simply means a subsidized press.

Joseph Pulitzer, when he learned the cost of cutting down the price of his paper from 2 cents to 1 cent, declared, "we prefer power to profit." Either a newspaper is to be conducted for profit or else it becomes dependent upon some rich man like Mr. Pulitzer, who is willing to conduct it for the power it gives him, or else upon some rich man like Mr. Hearst for the political opportunity which it affords, or else the newspaper must be subsidized by the great corporations and become not the independent organ of public opinion, but the subsidized organ of corporate interest. This is the greater menace.

NEGRO PRISONERS AND WHITE.

The Atlanta Constitution says a special report on the number of prisoners and juvenile delinquents in institutions of detention and correction in this country presents several facts of more than ordinary interest.

For instance, Dr. Roland P. Falkner, special agent of the bureau of the census, who instituted the work, and John Koren, who carried it on, has discovered:

1. More negro prisoners than whites in proportion to population.
2. The negro prisoners are more youthful.
3. The proportion of women prisoners is decreasing.

While the total number of negro prisoners committed during the year 1904 was less than the total number of whites, the proportion was greater.

The number of colored prisoners amounted to only 16.4 of the whole, but according to the census of 1900 the colored people formed only 12.1 per cent. of the population. Of the 149,691 prisoners, there were in 1904, 125,093 whites and 24,598 colored. Among the colored people are included 156 Mongolians and 714 Indians.

There should be in proportion to population, eight white criminals to one colored.

The report shows that the colored prisoners were responsible for nearly one-third of the more serious crimes for which prisoners were committed.

These conditions are not confined to the South, but hold good in every section except in Arizona and North Dakota, where the colored population is composed chiefly of Indians.

In discussing the age of prisoners, the report recites that 60 per cent. of those of known age committed during the year 1904 were between 20 and 40 years, and that 71 per cent. of the negroes were under 30 years of age.

This is further substantiation of the belief held throughout the South that the younger generation of negroes are more idle, shiftless and criminal than those born before the war. Whether due to heredity or environment, this fact remains. Whether the criminal instinct develops earlier in the negro; or whether the present condition of family life among the races, the lack of discipline which surrounded them in former days, has served to make criminals of the younger negroes, is an academic question. The records prove that the proportion of negro prisoners is greater, they commit most of the more serious crimes and the average age of the criminal is younger than for the whites.

IN THE LONG RUN.

However often the government, backed by popular conviction, says The Wall Street Journal, may fall in bringing to justice classes of enterprise which flourish in disregarding law, it is still true that in the long run the fight for honesty and openness in corporate management will be won by the State, in favor of the people.

The history of all struggles is, in accordance with this conclusion, that in the beginning the advantage may seem to be, as they apparently are now, with the accused corporation, because the difficulty in obtaining convicting evidence of wrong doing. But failure bears its own fruit in suggesting other methods of attack, by which the offenders may be prosecuted.

with still more certainty of success. Gradually it becomes clearer that as the people gave the corporations their right to exist, they can, with equal propriety, take it away from them if that existence is in itself a peril to public welfare. If the laws and the constitutions do not seem now to admit of such a course of action, public opinion will see that they have changed so as to admit of depriving of life any form of enterprise which may be deemed dangerous to the material, moral, and political existence of the State.

The struggle now going on is not a new one. It is as old as modern history, and in practically every case where corporations of any particular character have made themselves a peril, they have undergone a shearing of power to the point which enabled the State to chain the dragon. It was precisely so with the monastic corporations of the middle ages. It was equally so of monopolies in Elizabethan England, and it will be no less so of the corporations of modern Europe and America, unless they see fit to conform to what is legally defined as right in competition.

IT DESERVES NO MERCY.

The following from The Live Oak Democrat expresses the sentiment of The Sun regarding the illicit sale of whiskey:

"The blind tiger is a stealthy and dangerous beast living in direct defiance of the law and in contemptuous disregard of the expressed will of the community. It is a standing challenge to the most insolent character to that community, to its officers and to every law-abiding instinct in its people. It is concrete lawlessness, an unmixt evil of the most exasperating character, a shameless and habitual criminal, and there is no plea that can be set up in extenuation of its vile presence. Like the striped tiger of the jungle from which it takes its name, it is as pitiless as death, a standing menace to the peace and safety of the community and there is no trick or device on the part of an insulated and endangered town and its officers that is not warranted in order to lure the beast into the toils of the law, and, once there, teach it a stern lesson it will never forget. The blind tiger is a coarse, thick-headed animal without honor or conscience, with a certain low cunning as a substitute for brains, and the only gospel it heeds is the gospel of force. It despises law except when it takes the concrete form of an officer on its trail, and the latter should have behind him at all times a vigilant and courageous public sentiment not afraid to speak its mind, in his arduous task of running down the cruel beast that is the enemy of every home in the community and demoralizes young and old alike by its evil example of unpunished lawlessness."

ARMY DISORGANIZED.

Commenting on the recent dismissal of Colonel Ayres from the army, The Houston (Texas) Post remarks: "From the rise to power of General Corbin, during the McKinley administration, the official roster of the army has undergone many changes due to executive favoritism and the intrigues of the war department's bureaucracy. Many soldiers who served with distinction in the Civil and Indian wars, as well as in the Spanish-American war, were summarily retired or denied promotion in order that rank fakers like Leonard Wood might be advanced beyond their merits. Soldiers who resented such ill treatment, as Schley resented it in the navy, have been given the 'hot end of the poker,' to use the modern vernacular, and their efforts to obtain justice have not availed because the power that dominated the war department has likewise dominated the legislative department of the government."

The case of General Miles is also memorable. The army has been so completely demoralized by the military quackery of Roosevelt and his satellites, that it needs a complete reorganization.

The Madison Recorder thinks Senator James E. Broome is too old to be Governor. On the contrary, The Sun believes he is of that mature age which exactly fits him for the State's chief magistrate.

Cortelyou has the gift of silence. He also has the grace of resignation, when it comes to accepting the next higher job.

FROM THE PAGES OF FLORIDA PAPERS.

Down and Out.

The Daily State of Montgomery, Ala., passed into the hands of a receiver yesterday. The paper started publication on May 26, and was beset with the many difficulties to which every new journal is subjected in these days of competition. As stated editorially in The Sunday Daily State, the expense of starting the paper exceeded its income, and it failed to receive the endorsement and support of the public as was expected by the stockholders.—Pensacola Journal.

Beautifying the Plaza.

One of the most striking illustrations of what can be done in the way of beautifying the city is the great change which has taken place in the appearance of the Plaza. Six weeks ago the park was filled with dead grass, leaves and trash, and presented anything but a beautiful sight. Today, the grass is green and the walks neatly trimmed. Flowers and shrubbery are located in well-selected places and now attract attention from every visitor. Let the good work go on. What has been done here can be done elsewhere.—Pensacola Journal.

Conspiring Against Law.

Every thoughtful citizen each day must become more and more impressed with the insufficient, unequal and desultory enforcement of law throughout the United States. The man with the money and the man with the pull have justice, so to speak, by the nose, and strangle her in the performance of her duty. The Tribune regrets to note that Florida is very far from being an exception to the rule, and its laws and institutions are being constantly disgraced by a lamentably lax system of administering the legal statutes.

We do not say that the courts of law are altogether at fault in this respect. Indeed, the fault lies more at the door of those whose duty it is to carry out the findings of the courts than at that of the courts themselves. There is an ever increasing effort on the part of criminals to evade the punishment which the courts have decreed they should suffer, and these efforts grow more and more successful each succeeding year. From the State Pardoning Board down to the local constables there appears to be an understanding that every advantage should be given the guilty to escape serving a just sentence and that the reign of law is inimical to the interests of the community, and the State. And, truly, when convicted thieves, through some specious pretext, are permitted to show their brazen faces in daily intercourse with respectable people of a community; when convicted murderers may walk unmolested and safe from the enforcement of their sentence; when malefactors, both great and small, may, through a little shrewdness on the part of their lawyers, combined with a public tolerance altogether inexplicable, foolish and wrong, snap their fingers at the jail locks that should snap on them, there comes to us an ominous foreboding that something is radically wrong—something way down at the bottom of things—that requires instant and most drastic remedial treatment.

The existence of this condition, bordering on the chaotic, is the shame of the land. It is the shame of Florida. How may we justly rail against the infernal and anarchical nightmarish men call the "unwritten law" so long as we fail to compel our courts to act with promptitude in the trial and conviction of criminals and the officers of the law to use instant precision in carrying out the sentences of the courts? Men speak of the "majesty of the law." Such an expression is becoming as sarcasm, we regret to say; and many in high places are assisting in casting this indignity upon our most sacred institution of national governance. Unless the public mind awakens and insists upon a reform of methods, it will not be long before the law will be shown in its robes of majesty and dressed in the garb of a buffoon.—Tampa Tribune.

It is possible, says The New York Commercial, that there are, as James Grant claims, four million Democrats fit to be president. Now if any proportion of them would stop voting Republican tickets, some of them might reach the White House.